Worksheet 3 Nature of applications Answers

Task 1

1. Match up the problems with the type of utility software that might be used to tackle the problem by drawing a line between them.

"I need to send a presentation via email but it is too big for the company's maximum file size limit."
"I want my computer to always have the latest graphics drivers so my video games run with optimal settings"
"I need to make sure I can always access the customer records for my business, even if my computer malfunctions."
"I edit videos which are large files, and I need the computer to be able to open the files from the hard disk as quickly as possible so I don't waste time."
"I need patches for my operating system to be installed as soon as possible so that my data is kept as securely as possible."
"My hard drive is not working very well at the moment and I am worried it might break soon."
"Someone has sent me a presentation via email and I want to make sure it is a legitimate file before I open it."
"I received a .zip file attached to an email and I don't know how to open it"

Automatic updater
Automated backup
Disk defragmenter
Antivirus software
Compression software

2. Look up "consequences of data loss" and write down some facts about what the loss of business data may do to a company.

   See for example http://novabackup.novastor.com/blog/seven-consequences-of-data-loss

Task 2

3. (a) What is **proprietary** software?

   - Software that is marketed and sold or licensed only by the company with the rights to do so.

   (b) What differences might there be between mobile operating systems which are proprietary and those which are open source?

   Many possible answers, including:

   Proprietary Mobile OS (e.g. iOS)

   - Only available from the company who owns the rights to the software
   - The company who created the OS has control over which application software can be run (e.g. iOS only runs apps from Apple Store)
   - The exact hardware platform is known, so the software may be well optimised for that specific platform
   - Bugs and vulnerabilities can only be fixed by the company owning the software, as the source code is kept private

   Open source Mobile OS (e.g. Android)

   - Source code available to anyone, so the software can potentially be modified and used on different makes of mobile phone
   - Can be customised by different hardware manufacturers to provide a different user experience (e.g. Samsung customises Android with extra features)
   - Bugs could be found and exploited because anyone can access the source code
   - Alternatively, allowing many people to be able to examine the source code could result in bugs being found and fixed more quickly
   - Software is free, meaning it could be used to power inexpensive mobile phones to help people in developing countries